

Message Text

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TO MAC SCOTT AFB ILL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143881

MAC FOR POLAD

FOLL REPEAT AMEMBASSY ATHENS 4397 ACTION SECSTATE, SECDEF,
USCINCEUR, CINCUSAFE AND 7206TH ABG 13 JUN 75:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MILI, ELAB, GR, US

SUBJECT: LABOR PROBLEM AT HELLENIKON ATTAINS POLITICAL
DIMENSION AND BECOMES ENMESHED WITH BASE
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: ATHENS 3791, 4237 AND 4344

1. FOLLOWING APPROACHES MADE TO FONOFF BY MINISTRY OF
EMPLOYMENT, WHICH IN TURN HAD RECEIVED INTENSIVE PRESSURE
GENERATED BY UNION OF WORKERS EMPLOYED BY US FORCEY (REFTELS),
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER STAVROPOULOS DISCUSSED SITUATION
WITH AMBASSADOR, AND POL/MIL OFFICER BRIEFED STAVROPOULOS'
CHEF DU CABINET TSOUNIS ON JUNE 12. STAVROPOULOS, FEELING
NEED TO ENGAGE HIMSELF MORE FULLY IN PROBLEM, THEN SOLICITED
US PRESENCE AT A MEETING OF INTERESTED GOG OFFICIALS ON
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JUNE 13 TO DISCUSS PRESENT SITUATION AND WAYS OF AVOIDING

SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE. POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND POL/MIL OFF ATTENDED MEETING, WHICH CHAIRED BY STAVROPOULOS, AND ALSO ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS, AMBASSADOR MIGLIARESSIS AND OTHER GOG OFFICIALS.

2. STAVROPOULOS OPENED MEETING WITH STATEMENT THAT LABOR PROBLEM AT HELLENIKON (ATHENAI AIR BASE) POSED CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES FOR GOG AND HENCE FOR US/GREEK RELATIONS. HE ACCEPTED THAT US FORCES COULD NOT RE-EMPLOY 64 GREEK EMPLOYEES WHOSE JOBS ABOLISHED MAY 30, BUT HE DESCRIBED TASK OF MEETING AS ONE OF PREVENTING FURTHER SUCH SITUATIONS DEVELOPING. HE ASKED THAT NO FURTHER DISMISSALS OF GREEK EMPLOYEES OCCUR WHILE STRIKE IN PROGRESS. HE ALSO SAID THAT A NEW ARRANGEMENT WAS NEEDED TO COVER EMPLOYMENT OF GREEK NATIONALS BY US FORCES. AS A FIRST STEP, HE WISHED ANOTHER MEETING ON JUNE 16 TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS CONCERNING CURRENT EMPLOYMENT BY US FORCES OF US CITIZEN EMPLOYEES AND IN ORDER TO BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DISCUSS FUTURE US FORCES EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES. MORE SPECIFICALLY, HE WISHED

INFORMATION CONCERNING STATUS OF US CITIZEN EMPLOYEES CURRENTLY ON ROLLS, I.E., HOW MANY POSSESSED WORK PERMITS ISSUED BY GREEK MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND HOW MANY POSSESSED ONLY IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED TO US FORCES PERSONNEL, DEPENDENTS, AND MEMBERS OF CIVILIAN COMPONENT.

3. AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS, AFTER UNSUCCESSFULLY SUGGESTING THAT THIS ISSUE BEST LEFT TO SOFA SUBGROUP IN US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS (WHICH HE BELIEVED WOULD MEET ON OR SHORTLY AFTER JULY 10), MADE PLEA FOR RESUMPTION VERY SOON OF SUBGROUP MEETINGS ON HELLENIKON. HE BELIEVED A RAPID DEFINITION OF FUTURE STRENGTH OF US FORCES TO REMAIN THERE WOULD PLACE GOG IN POSITION TO SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY ON HOW MANY GREEK EMPLOYEES WOULD HAVE TO BE TERMINATED AS A RESULT OF DECISION BY GOG TO RESTRICT US PRESENCE IN GREECE. US PARTICIPANTS NOTED THAT HELLENIKON SUBGROUP MEETINGS UNLIKELY TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE WEEK OF 30 JUNE, BUT UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY SENSE OF URGENCY CALOGERAS FELT. CALOGERAS URGED MEETINGS WEEK OF JUNE 23, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. US REPS ALSO NOTED THAT NO FURTHER RIF
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SCHEDULED BEFORE JULY, WHEN EMPLOYEES OF US NAVY WOULD BEGIN TO BE RELEASED.

4. A NUMBER OF ISSUES HAVE BEEN RAISED IN LAST TEN MONTHS BY UNION AT HELLENIKON. SOME OF THESE RELATE TO EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES DICTATED BY DOD REQUIREMENT THAT DEPENDENTS OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE IN EMPLOYMENT AT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES. MORE VEHEMENT COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN

MADE BY UNION ABOUT EMPLOYMENT OF "TOURISTS", WHICH IS UNION
CODEWORD FOR LOCALLY-HIRED GREEK-AMERICAN PERSONNEL. ANOTHER
FACTOR IN LABOR SITUATION IS EXISTENCE OF SEPARATE PERSONNEL
SYSTEMS WITH US FORCES, AT LEAST FOUR OF WHICH CONTROL
PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON ATHENAI AIR BASE. WE FORESEE BOTH
A NEED TO ADJUST HIRING PRACTICES (PARTICULARLY TO DEFINE
IN AN AGREED FASHION WHAT "NOT ORDINARILY RESIDENT" MEANS
IN SOFA ARTICLE 1) AND TO ACHIEVE A DEGREE OF UNITY IN US
PERSONNEL SYSTEMS, WHICH POSE PROBLEMS FOR REQUIRED COORDINA-
TION IN A PERIOD WHEN US FORCES' EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ARE
UNDER INTENSIVE SCRUTINY. ALTHOUGH STRIKE ENDED SHORTLY
AFTER MEETING DESCRIBED ABOVE (SEPTTEL), THE LABOR SITUATION
NOW HAS AN IMPETUS WHICH MUST BE ACCOMMODATED.

5. WE WILL REPORT PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
JULY 16.

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